Upgradation of National Highways

1017. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to improve and upgrade existing National Highways in the country to make them all weather proof; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The development and improvement of National Highways is a continuous process and the improvement projects are taken up based on the design and guidelines for National Highways to make the roads all weather proof. The design principles and guidelines are so framed to provide (i) the road section at least one meter above the highest flood level/water table, (ii) adequate surface and sub-surface drainage measures including camber on the top of the pavement and (iii) bituminous or concrete pavements as top layer.

Works on East-Coast Road

1018. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of works undertaken stretch-wise under east-coast road and the progress made stage-by-stage on such works and the time-frame fixed for completion of pending works;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many places the quality of execution is not upto the mark warranting repairs and patch-work within few weeks of execution;

(c) whether it is a fact that many stretches even on completion are yet to be declared as National Highways; and

(d) if so, by when it would be done in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for developemnt and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The east coast road mainly consists of the roads within the purview of the State Government except the reach from Pondicherry to Nagapattinam i.e. NH-45A, Ramnad to Devipattinam i.e. NH-210 and small stretches of

NH-67, 45B and 7A. The list of works undertaken stretch-wise on the National Highway No. 45A and 210 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) At present emphasis is being given for the improvement of the existing network of National Highways to bring them upto the National Highway Standard rather than declaration of the new National Highways.

Statement

Works on East Coast Road

SL. No.	NH No.	Stretch	Nature of work	Status
1.	45A	68/730-76/0	Improvement of Riding Quality	Completed during 2001-02
2.	45A	76/0-85/0	Strengthening	Completed during 2004-05
3.	45A	85/0-87/0	Strengthening	In progress
4.	45A	90/0-93/0	Strengthening	Completed during 2000-01
5.	45A	93/0-104/0	Strengthening	Completed during 2004-05
6.	45A	109/0-119/6	Strengthening	Completed during 2003-04
7.	45A	120/5-137/8	Widening	In progress
8.	45A	137/8-146/0	Improvement of Riding Quality	Completed during 2002-03
9.	45A	150/0-162/0	Widening	In progress
10.	45A	180/0-186/5	Widening	In progress
11.	45A	186/5-188/4	Improvement of Riding Quality	Completed during 2003-04
12.	45A	188/4-192/4	Widening	In progress
13.	45A	192/4-194/0	Improvement of Riding Quality	Completed during 2003-04
14.	210	162/8-177/4	Widening	Completed during 2004-05

Golden Quadrilateral Project

1019. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Golden Quadrilateral National Highway Project with a huge-investment of Rs. 54,000 crores was conceived by the previous Government and with a view to avoid malpractices and to speed up the project, it was monitored by the Prime Minister's Office;